

New Scheme of Grants-in-Aid For Schools In W. Bengal

The West Bengal Government has decided to replace the existing schemes of grants-in-aid for high and higher secondary schools in the state by the salary deficit scheme with effect from the current year. In our considered view, the new scheme will make secondary education in the state more costly and curtail existing benefits which 1973 high and higher secondary schools at present enjoy.

There were 4093 high and higher secondary schools in West Bengal as on 31st December, 1971. Of which 1973 high and higher secondary schools which were recognised upto 31st December, 1962 receive full deficit grants. 80 high and higher secondary schools which were recognised upto the same date are in receipt of lump maintenance grant of Rs. 15,000 per school per year.

In 1963, 204 high and higher secondary schools were recognised. Each of such boys' schools receives a lump grant of Rs. 12,000 while each of such girls' schools Rs. 25,000 per year. In 1964, 231 high and higher secondary schools were recognised. Each of such boys' schools gets a lump grant of Rs. 8,000 while each of such girls' schools Rs. 12,000 per year. In 1965, 329 high and higher secondary schools were recognised. Each of such schools receives a lump grant of Rs. 8,000 every year. In 1966, 1967, 1968 and 1969,

altogether 1035 high and higher secondary schools were recognised. Each of such schools gets a lump grant of Rs. 6,000 per year. In 1970 and 1971, 271 high and higher secondary schools were recognised. They do not receive any grant-in-aid at all.

Now all these schemes are going to be discontinued and all the 4093 recognised high and higher secondary schools will be brought under one scheme, namely, the salary deficit scheme. The result of it is that the 1973 high and higher secondary schools which have so long been getting full deficit grants will henceforth receive only the salary deficit. This means curtailment of existing benefits in so far as these 1973 schools are concerned.

After the new scheme is enforced all the 4093 recognised high and higher secondary schools in West Bengal will have to raise funds for meeting the expenses on account of

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Proletarian Era

ORGAN OF SOCIALIST UNITY CENTRE OF INDIA
(Fortnightly)

Editor-in-Chief—Shibdas Ghosh

VOL. 6
No. 5

15 OCTOBER, '72
SUNDAY

PRICE 10 P.
Air Surcharge 4. P.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE STATEMENT ON AICC RESOLUTION

The Central Committee of the SUCI has issued the following statement:—

"The Central Committee of the SUCI is of considered view that the existing capitalist economy in our country is basically responsible for the spiralling of prices of essential commodities coupled with the anti-people monetary, fiscal and credit policies of the ruling Congress governments of (i) indiscriminate deficit financing (ii) unbridled supply of money with the public by circulating inflationary currency notes, (iii) imposition of unbelievably high rates of indirect taxation on

essential commodities, (iv) allowing huge amounts of loans and advances from banks to the monopolists, speculators, hoarders and big business enabling them to corner goods and manipulate prices, (v) refusal to detect and confiscate the huge amount of black money in the hands of the monopolists, smugglers, speculators and big business and above all (vi) refusal to introduce all-out state-trading in essential commodities thereby leaving the entire field of distribution to the mercy of the monopolists, speculators, hoarders and black-maketeers giving
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A section of the historic rally held at Saheed Minar Maidan, Calcutta on October 4 (Reports on page 2)

Historic Rally in Calcutta

(By a Staff Reporter)

The historic rally on October 4 has added a new chapter in the history of democratic movement not only of West Bengal but of the country in general. This historic rally has once again proved the indomitable fighting spirit of the exploited people against oppression and repression, panic and terror spread by the ruling class and the Congress Govt.

Several lakhs of people, in response to the joint call of the CPI(M), SUC, RSP, FB, WPI, RCPI, FBM and the BBC, rallied at the Shaheed Minar Maidan to participate in the historic mass deputation to the Governor echoing the demands for bringing down the prices of essential commodities, employment, education, adequate relief, stoppage of eviction of peasants and protection of democratic rights.

Such a massive rally was really unique and significant indeed not only because it opened up the possibility of developing new waves of mighty, united democratic movement after long months of confusion and lull in the democratic movements. It was significant all the more because, inspite of all opposition and obstruction and terrorisation by the ruling Congress party and the Government in its heinous bid to foil the rally, people from all walks of life heroically took up the challenge of the ruling class and marched undaunted towards the Maidan in thousands to make the rally a grand success.

Never before the Congress party and the Congress Government have come out with so much of all the power and strength in their possession, as it did on the present occasion to frustrate the Left parties' programme to hold the rally.

They had used all the weapons they had in their hands. First they tried to play it down as a poor game of the Leftists and for this they used monopoly-controlled Press and other media to any extent.

But when, inspite of all their attempts to confuse the people, thousands joined the demonstrations in towns and villages at the call of the

left parties, the Congress party and the Government turned to newer tricks. State Congress leaders, including the Chief Minister and other Ministers, with the help of mass circulation dailies at their service, started a vile campaign against the Leftists that the latter were out to create chaos and violence only to shift the onus for the same of the Congress. The State Congress President went even to the extent of suggesting that the CPI(M) men would themselves throw bombs at the demonstrations and then hold the Congress responsible for it. A youth Congress leader tried to confuse the people by appealing to them to help the Congress to maintain peace and law and order in the face of the Leftists' attempts at unleashing violence and terror. The Chief Minister himself tried to play the peace-dove by announcing that he would arrange for drinking water for the people who would assemble at the Maidan.

On the one hand, they tried to confuse the people by such tricky propaganda campaign in order to detract them from joining the demonstrations and the rally, on the other hand, police and Congress hoodlums in villages and towns went on threatening the common masses with dire consequences if they joined the demonstrations or even helped the organisers in any form. Posters announcing the rally on October 4 were torn at many places. On October 2, two members of the Komsomol, Young Communist organisation of the SUC, while pasting posters in Dum Dum area, were held and assaulted by ruling Congress goondas and were even threatened with

murders. Police was informed immediately but no action was taken. They were, however, later released from the clutches of the Congress goondas with the help of local citizens. This is one of hundreds of such incidents that took place throughout West Bengal prior to October 4. In another case, also in Dum Dum, local Congress goondas snatched away hundreds of chapatis prepared by housewives for peasants who would come to Calcutta on October 4 from the house of one of our local organisers.

But all these acts and propaganda went pale before the massive preparation of the Government on October 4, when the entire state of West Bengal was literally turned into a battlefield with Police, CRP, Home Guards and other paramilitary forces supported by Congress gangsters deployed in villages, towns and railway stations and especially at the city's different entry points.

Thousands of processionists were held up in different places by these forces. In case of our Party alone, 2,500 peasants were held up at Joynagar, 4,000 at Pathar Pratima, 3,500 at Kultali, 2,000 at Mathurapur, 1,000 at Magrahat, 500 at Mandir Bazar, more than 5,000 at Baruipur in 24 Parganas, 1,000 at Barjora in Bankura and 500 at Faridpur in Burdwan district.

When, in spite of such obstructions, thousands of peasants proceeded towards Calcutta by trains from different districts, hundreds were pulled out of the trains at different stations by Police, CRP and Congress goondas. Thousands of peasants of Birbhum led by Comrade Pratiba Mukherjee, on their way to Calcutta by train, were forced to get down at Bandel where, several thousand others from Murshidabad, led by Comrade Achintya

Sinha met the same fate at the hands of the Police and the CRP and were even lathicharged there. Similarly, at Bishnupur and Kharagpur stations, hundreds of peasants coming from Purulia under the leadership of the SUC leader Com. Swapan Roy Chowdhury, were also forced to get down from the train on October 3.

In the same way about 50,000 peasants, organised by SUC alone were prevented from attending the Maidan rally while only some 20,000 could reach their destination.

But even after all these, the ruling Congress party and the Government failed to check the onward march of the fighting people of West Bengal. Lakhs of workers, students, peasants, employees and ordinary people from all walks of life rallied at the Shaheed Minar Maidan to turn the whole area into a vast sea of humanity.

After the rally a big procession went to Raj Bhavan and a Memorandum listing some urgent demands of the people was handed over to the Governor by the leaders of the Left parties.

The Grand Rally of October 4 has turned a new leaf in the history of democratic movement of our country. It has brought with it the end of confusion and lull in the democratic movement through which the country has been passing for the past several months. It has raised new hopes in the mind of the toiling masses and laid the foundation of the future democratic movements in our country. We hail the militant, democratic people of West Bengal for their indomitable courage and determination and call upon them to organise themselves in villages and towns, fields and factories in preparation of a sustained, militant democratic movement through which alone can their legitimate demands be realised.

New Scheme of Grants-In-Aid For Schools

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contingency and audit (ii) prize and library, (iii) laboratory, (iv) building repairs and (v) furniture and equipment. Expenditure on account of these five items had so long been borne by the Government in so far as the said 1973 schools are concerned. Average annual expenditure on account of these items amounts to Rs. 6,000 to Rs. 12,000 per school. And how this huge amount is going to be raised by each of the 493 recognised high and higher secondary schools in the state? It goes without saying that the schools will raise the amount by special levy on the students. The Special Report by Mr. J. C. Sen Gupta, the then Secretary, Education Department, Government of West Bengal and Mr. J. P. Naik representing Union Ministry of Education and Social Welfare entitled **Some Immediate and Crucial Educational Problems of West Bengal** categorically states that expenses other than salaries "should be found by the management who may levy special fees for the purpose." (Emphasis ours) In plain language it means that henceforth students in the recognised high and higher secondary schools are to pay special levies to meet the expenditure on all items except salaries of members of the teaching and non-teaching staff of the schools. Thus, secondary education in West Bengal is going to be more costly than before. The new scheme will hit the people of West Bengal hard, 70 per cent of whom live below poverty line. It completely fits in with the policy of the ruling Congress Party and the governments run by it to curtail education.

It is true that the members of the teaching and non-teaching staff in those schools which have so long been getting lump grants or no grant at all were the

worst sufferers inasmuch as they did not get salaries according to approved scales and regularly. It cannot also be denied this extremely unsatisfactory situation must be remedied without any further delay. But it is our considered view that the remedy lies not in taxing the students more by way of imposition of special levies on them but in forcing the government to bear all expenses of the schools. So, the scheme of full deficit grants applicable to 1973 high and higher secondary schools should not be withdrawn. The other 2120 recognised high and higher secondary schools which at present receive lump grants or no grant at all should rather be covered by the full deficit grants scheme.

West Bengal Government has taken the plea that it is beyond the financial capacity of the government to bring all the recognised high and higher secondary schools in the state under the full deficit grants scheme. This is a lame excuse. For, even according to the government, an additional amount of Rs 5 to 6 crores would be necessary for covering all recognised high and higher secondary schools under the full deficit grants scheme. Is the State Government not in a position to spend this additional amount on account of education? Certainly the government can provide for this amount if it so desires. Reduce the Police budget and increase the Education budget and it will not at all be difficult to meet the additional expenditure of Rs 5 to 6 crores. But the government is not prepared to follow this line demanded by the people. It, on the contrary, has increased police budget and reduced the Education budget. The second U F government, in spite of financial difficulties and very many shortcomings and mistakes committed by the Education Department, spent 21.7 per cent of the total revenue expenditure

Big Mass Meeting at Dhanbad

A big mass meeting was held at Jealgora Sub-Area No. 16 of Area No. 5 of the Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. on 2.10.72 at 4 P.M. under the auspices of the Bihar Coal Miners' Union and the Dhanbad Branch of the U.T.U.C. (Lenin Sarani) to protest against the anti labour policy of the BCCL management.

The meeting was presided over by Sri Haricharan Ram, Branch Secretary of the Union for the Jealgora sub-area No 16. After the meeting a massive demonstration was held which paraded through the main roads of Digwadih and Jealgora.

Com. Anil Sircar, Secretary, Bihar Coal Miners' Union, Sri R.P. Singh, well-known Trade Union Leader, and Sri Rameswar Mistry, an active T.U. worker and an organiser of the Union, addressed the meeting. In their speech, they criticised the anti-labour policy of the B.C.C. Ltd. and described the achievements of the Union, such as realisation of 8.33% minimum bonus, inclusion of Lead and Lift for the purpose of bonus, payment of holiday wages in case of the workmen remaining on leave or absent,

for education. The present ruling Congress government in West Bengal has allocated Rs. 78,23,63,000 in the Budget Estimate for education which comes to 20.9 per cent of the total revenue expenditure as estimated in the budget for 1972-73. Thus, education budget has been relatively decreased.

We hope and trust that organisations of teachers and students, political parties and democratically minded people in West Bengal will foil by pressure of mass movement the government move to withdraw existing benefits to which 1973 recognised high and higher secondary schools are now entitled and make secondary education more costly by suggesting imposition of special levy on students and will compel the government to bring all recognised schools under full deficit grants scheme.

etc. through ceaseless fight. They appealed to the workers to become united under the banner of the union.

Com. Hem Chakrabarty, Vice President of the Union criticised strongly the posting of C.I.S.F. personnel in the collieries of the B.C.C. Ltd. at a time when the Coal Field was comparatively peaceful.

Com. R. P. Singh assaulted.

On the day of the above meeting Comrade R.P. Singh, the famous Trade Union Leader and a prominent member of the Socialist Unity Centre Of India (S.U.C.I.), had been seriously assaulted by five hired goondas of the management on the main road of Digwadih Bazar while he was returning to his lodge from the union office that night. Com. Singh is now in a precarious condition at Jamadoba Hospital. No arrest has yet been made.

Meeting at Rajgangpur

Rajgangpur Sept. 18.

A mass meeting was held at the main gate of the factory at Rajgangpur. The meeting was presided over by Com. Samar Sarker, an organiser of the S.U.C. The main speaker was Com. S.K. Rasim, the local S. U. C. leader. Com. Rasim demanded ad hoc payment of Rs. 500 to the workers who were affected by flood and cyclone and long term loan of Rs 1000/- for house building purpose. He strongly criticised the E. S. I medical officer for ill treatment to the insured workers. He criticised the government for the rise in prices and condemned the police firing on unarmed strikers of Probbhat Iron Foundry, Rourkela.

C.C STATEMENT ON PRICE-RISE

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them unlimited scope and advantages to hoard goods, create their artificial scarcity in the market, manipulate their prices, fleece the people and reap maximum profits.

"The Central Committee is further of the view that the resolution adopted recently by the AICC on state-trading is an eye-wash designed to hoodwink the people and will meet with utter failure to check high prices and ensure equitable distribution of essential commodities at fair prices to the people. The measures suggested therein are not only half-hearted and extremely limited in scope but also are fraught with possibilities of legalising and regularising black-market prices fixed by the monopolists and black-marketeers and supplying articles unfit for human consumption as has been the case all these years.

"The Central Committee is convinced that mere wholesale state-trading without touching retail business cannot check rise in prices, speculation, black-marketing etc., inasmuch as it provides the whole-salers every oppor-

tunity to pass them on as retailers by fraudulent means and carry on their nefarious activities in manipulating prices and fleecing the people. It is for this simple reason that since when all other left parties were opposed to any sort of state-trading, the SUCI has been agitating for all-out state-trading in essential commodities covering even retail transactions as well. For the same reason when the UF was in governmental power in West Bengal it is the SUCI alone that fought against other constituents of the Front for the introduction of all-out state-trading in essential commodities.

"The Central Committee, therefore, calls upon the people not to harbour any illusion about the recent decision of the ruling Congress party on state-trading and expect any benefit out of it but to prepare themselves for organised sustained mass movements to compell the government to revise its anti-people monetary, fiscal, credit, price and trading policies in the best interest of the people."

MEMORANDUM PLACED BY ESI EMPLOYEES, GAUHATI

(From Our Correspondent)

Gauhati, October 1: Under the auspices of the ESI Employees' Action Committee, a deputation, comprising 25 representatives of different unions waited upon the Regional Director and the Administrative Medical Officer, ESI, here on September 27. In absence of the Regional Director, the deputationists handed over a 14 Point charter of demands to his chief assistant.

The memorandum demanded, among others, the establishment of a full-fledged ESI Hospital; adequate arrangement for treatment and supply of medicines through ESI dispensaries and

wages for leave period etc.

The deputation was led by Messrs Saradindu Biswas, Indu Bhowmik, Provat Barman, Suranjan Goswami, Jiban Sharma and others.

The Administrative Medical Officer, while admitting the justness of the demands, however, refused to discuss about their redressal.

Under the circumstances, the Action Committee has called upon all the employees and workers of the State to come forward to develop a mighty movement which alone could wrest their legitimate demands from the unwilling hands of the authorities.

Central Committee's Statement on Riots in Assam

The Central Committee of the SUCI has issued the following statement:—

"The Central Committee of the SUCI expresses its deep sense of shock and concern at the recent outbreak of riots in Assam on the question of medium of instruction and examination in colleges under the Gauhati University, strongly condemns the reactionary forces that have engineered the riots and are still carrying them on and thoroughly disapproves of the stands of the student organisations led by some so-called left parties in Assam that are trying to fish in troubled water in order to expand their influence among the students by playing on their communal and provincial feelings. The Central Committee is of considered view that it is the language policy of the Congress Government at the Centre that is serving as the perpetual breeding ground of communalism, provincialism and such other parochial feelings on the question of language. The latest resolution adopted by the Assam Government in this regard is the immediate cause of the riots in Assam. It should be borne in mind that the unity of the people of the country is of paramount importance and the only guarantee for the ultimate emancipation of the people in our country from all sorts of exploitation and social injustice and must at all costs be preserved. The Central Committee, therefore, appeals to all the democratic forces and individuals, particularly the student community, in Assam to exert themselves wholeheartedly to see that the riots are checked immediately, a unity among different communities speaking different languages is restored without delay, the reactionary forces guilty of inflaming

Provincial feelings and engineering riots are brought to books, the unity of the people in Assam is preserved and the question of medium of instruction and examination is solved according to democratic norms and principles to the satisfaction of all sections of the people including the linguistic minorities in Assam and the adjoining areas outside Assam but under the educational jurisdiction of the Gauhati University."

Rourkela Students

Youths School of Politics

A School of Politics was organised by the All India Democratic Students Organisation, Rourkela Unit from 1st October to 4th October 1972 on Theory of knowledge, Dialectical and Historical materialism, on national and international situation and on communist code of conduct based on Marxism-Leninism and in the light of the teachings of Com. Shibdas Ghose, the outstanding Marxist-Leninist thinker of the era. The School of Politics was conducted by Com. Tapash Dutta the Orissa State Organiser of S. U. C. I.

Com. Aminullah Khan Dead

Comrade Aminullah Khan, a veteran SUC worker, received bullet injury during police firing on 22nd August last on striking workers of Probhat Foundry Ltd. killing one worker on the spot and severely injuring two others. Com. Aminullah Khan was admitted to hospital where he expired on 7th Oct. last. With the dead body of martyr Khan a huge condolence procession marched past the main roads of the Steel town on 8th instant.

Orissa State Committee of the SUCI in the course of a statement conveying heartfelt sorrow and condolence to the wife, son and daughter of the deceased martyr said that Com. Aminullah Khan fought throughout his party life as a fore-ranker in all struggles and died as a hero championing the great cause of the working class.